

# N O A U G

## NEW ORLEANS ATARI USERS' GROUP

The NOAUG News "Official Newsletter of the New Orleans Atari Users' Group" Vol.4 #10 Nov. 1987

## MichTron Offered Bounty on Pirate BBS Systems

By Ken White

*The Pokey Press 8/87 (Reprint)* - It all started with a message left on GENie, the consumer online service from General Electric....

Category 5, Topic 3  
Message 103 Tue May 26, 1987  
Gordon [MichTron] at 10:49 EDT

I am tired of playing games with Pirate BBS's. I feel that these guys are just a blight on the market place. They offer free programs to anyone who wants them, depriving authors, dealers, and publishers of income that they need to survive.

To drive this menace from our country I am going to offer a reward for the capture of any Pirate BBS.

You can have your choice. \$200 cash or \$400 worth of MichTron software (your choice)

if you give me the phone number, and password of any pirate board with MichTron software on it. I must have a password! I don't have time to call to try to get high access. Password can be in your name or a fake...I will keep your identity secret at all times! P.S.

You can get more than 1.  
Special offer, turn in three boards and I will give you a hard drive!!

And then things started to take off. There had been a continuing discussion in the MichTron Roundtable on GENie about piracy, with talk of past tactics to use against pirate BBS systems, and discussion by ex-pirates regarding their rational for pirating copyrighted software.

But the tactics of the past didn't seem to be working. If anything, Pirate BBS's were flourishing, and it was obvious to all that

*(Continued on Page 8)*

## Is It Live, Or Is It VAPORWARE?

By Todd Pettit

*N.O.A.U.G.* - Everybody out there who owns an Atari 1090XL Expansion Module raise your hands. Hmmm...no takers? Okay, how about that nifty composite monitor Jack promised, the XC141? What? Nobody? There's got to be at least be a 65XEP portable 8-bit out there, eh? Not even one? An XTC201 thermal color printer? A CD-ROM player? A 3 1/2" XE drive? I see a pattern emerging...

It is more than a pattern. It's a disturbing trend for those involved with Atari and its home computer lines. Vaporware (products announced but never delivered) has become so common with Atari that most consumers have adopted a "I'll believe it when I see it" attitude about ANY new Atari product announcements. It is a very sore point with those who have delayed hardware acquisitions because Atari was coming out with something

new, something better--only to have the new product suddenly cancelled, sometimes without explanation, after months of anticipation.

While Warner's Atari had its share of vaporware products (1400XL and 1450 XLD computers, 1090XL Expansion Module, CP/M Module, etc.), Jack Tramiel's Atari has refined the practice to an art. Cancelled products under the "new" Atari Corp. include the 65XEM "Music Machine" 8-bit, the 65XEP portable 8-bit, the XTM201 and XTC201 thermal printers, 8-bit color and monochrome monitors, the 1305T, 2605TD, a 19" RGB monitor, color ST printers, and the MEGA 1 ST (in favor of the 1040ST).

A number of other products are still being promised, starting with the CD-ROM player announced in June 1985. Still to show up (at least on American shores) are the SX212 modem, XEP80 80-column card, the ST blitter chip, the SLM laser printer, the Atari PC, and the TI thirty-two bit computer. All of these are eagerly awaited products that would undoubtedly sell well--if they were available.

Atari has said on more than one occasion that some products are announced so that they can gauge "response" to it. This may, in

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## The NOAUG News Bulletin Board

The New Orleans Atari Users' Group is a not-for-profit organization and is not affiliated with the Atari Corporation, or any other commercial organization.

For more information about the NOAUG you should contact one of our club officers.

President	Dave Porter	887-7585
Vice-President	Buddy Freeman	467-7935
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The NOAUG BBS operates 24 hrs. a day, 7 days a week, 300/1200 baud--738-3600.

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Half page	\$ 8.50	also be posted on
Quarter page	\$ 5.00	our BBS when re-
Business card	\$ 3.00	quested.

Advertising for non-commercial purposes is provided to members of NOAUG without charge.

First preference for newsletter articles is as *AtariWriter Plus* files. They may be presented to the editor at club meetings. If you wish to submit by modem please call first. Printed articles are also acceptable. Articles can also be uploaded to the BBS--please leave E-mail to the editor with the article name.

Special thanks to Sandra Petit for her assistance in the preparation of this issue.

THANK  
YOU!



By Todd Petit

## Remarks

A Column of  
Opinion by the  
Editor of the  
NOAUG News

## Some Special Thanks To Some Special NOAUG Members

**N.O.A.U.G.** - It's "thank you" time at the offices of the NOAUG News (okay, so that's my living room--so what?) and the thanks are going out to Vince Loustalot, Cairy Spiers, Denise Holzhauser, Dave Porter, and Karl Belson. Without these five individuals the NOAUG News would not have been able to rack up one pretty impressive statistic.

After four issues, nearly 65% of our articles have come from our membership (primarily the five people listed above and yours truly). We've had around 40 articles published so far with 25 of those coming from you, the NOAUG membership. This is a far higher percentage than many clubs can boast and we should all be justifiably proud of this accomplishment. This percentage isn't spread evenly over those four issues (7 of 8 articles in the August issue were originals, only 5 of 10 in the September issue, and just 6 of 13 in the October issue), but, since all NOAUG articles are done voluntarily (except for many of Karl's which were initiated by threats of bodily harm) I am not going to complain about that. There is one area, however, that I must mention for it disturbs me greatly. A very bad statistic--not one of the ST articles we've published was generated within NOAUG. I want to repeat an earlier call to our ST membership: let's change that one statistic.

A more active role by the Membership of NOAUG has resulted in the growth of our newsletter as well as that of our BBS. It's being done by a small, active core of members, however, who only have so much time on their hands. Many of the people who used to bring us most of our exciting, well-presented demos are now putting that energy into either the BBS or the newsletter and, as a result, we haven't really had any major demo presentations in quite a while. If you want to help--with any area of the club--contact one of the officers and we will put you to work. No special skills needed, no experience required. I want to repeat my call for someone to assist in getting some ads for the newsletter. We're talking about writing some letters, handling some correspondence here, folks, that's all. Any takers?

Take some time after reading this issue to thank our contributors and complement them on work. I--make that WE--owe them a lot more.



## THE SUPER ARCHIVER

### EVEN MORE BACKUP POWER!

By Vince Loustalot

**N.O.A.U.G.** - Computer Software Services (C.S.S.) of Rockchester, New York has advertised its **ARCHIVER** Chip as "touted by experts as the most powerful BACKUP and PROGRAMMING tool ever offered for the Atari". Almost everyone who has had an Atari 8-bit for a couple of years has heard of the the **ARCHIVER**. The **ARCHIVER** has enjoyed a reputation among Atari owners as one of the easiest to use and most versatile backup devices. It has been able to backup most protected programs until the advent of the "fuzzy" sector and some of the more sophisticated and complicated double sectoring and skewed sector schemes. The major drawback to the **ARCHIVER**, in my opinion, was that it was limited to the 810 drive. Other backup devices were available for the 1050 drive and allowed for Ultra-Hi speed I/O and true double density.

C.S.S. has finally developed the **ARCHIVER** for use in the 1050 drive. First, the good news. The new Chip is designed to not only give 1050 owners the features of the old **ARCHIVER** Chip, but it allows for true double density, 1050 enhanced density and single density. It also provides Ultra-Hi speed I/O which can be accessed by **SpartaDOS**. If you think that was good news, keep listening. The Chip and the software have been improved to give the user advanced backup capabilities. The most significant of these is the ability to automatically backup "fuzzy" sectors. The **SUPER ARCHIVER** also allows the user to make his own fuzzy sector for protection of home-grown software. The disk supplied with the Chip contains an even more advanced version of the **ARCHIVER** software (version 3.1) which allows for very sophisticated sector

skewing.

Installation is simple enough for almost anyone who can read the generally good instructions and can handle a soldering iron. Installation took me around forty-five minutes which included a coffee break. What are some of the new features of the **SUPER ARCHIVER**?

1. True double density for the 1050
2. Ultra-speed I/O
3. Automatic backup of "fuzzy" sectors
4. More efficient method of sector skewing
5. Automatic slow-down of the drive when copying tracks with more than 19 sectors
6. Ability to copy tracks with up to 35 sectors (more on this later)
7. Recognition of expanded memory XL's and the extra memory of the XE (more on this also)
8. The Formatter and Editor of version 3.0 contain many more new features which are better explained in the documentation
9. A sector/track tracing program that allows the user to trace the loading of a program

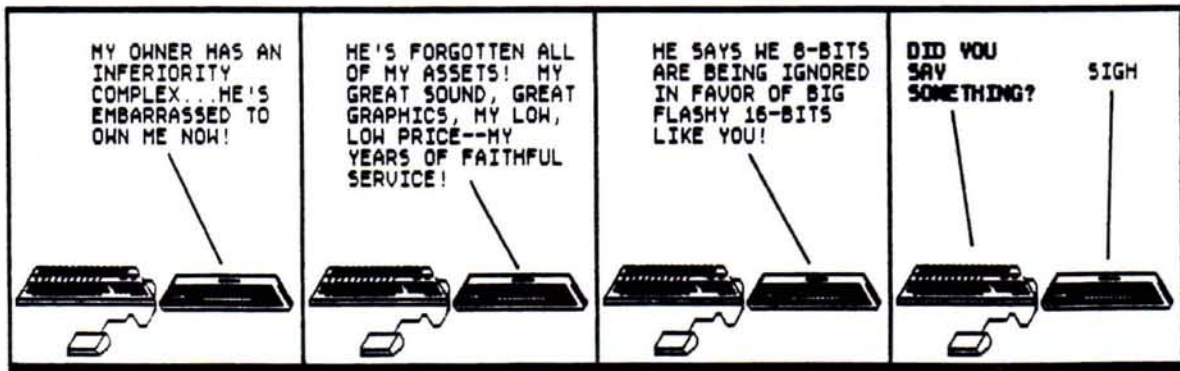
Well, all of this good news and no bad news? Unfortunately no. The bad news is not all that bad, however. The installation instructions are generally very good if misspellings and grammatical errors are overlooked. A person who can read and handle a soldering iron can install the Chip and speed controller. The major flaw in the installation docs was concerning the placement of the ROM/EPROM jumpers in the 1050. Anyone who has installed the **US Doubler** from ICD will know immediately what these jumpers are. The jumpers may have to be repositioned when the **ARCHIVER** is installed, but this "little" necessity is not mentioned until the last paragraph in the installation docs. Nothing serious will happen to the drive if these instructions are not found until later, but the wear and tear on the owner's nervous system can lead to breakdowns and suicide. If the jumpers are improperly installed, the drive will appear to be DEAD when you first power up. I hope this oversight will be corrected in future revisions of the docs.

Another area of disappointment is the overall quality of the user documentation. C.S.S. offers the new software to owners of the original **ARCHIVER**, and they feel a poorly xeroxed copy of the original **ARCHIVER** docs with an addendum of new features will suffice. I don't feel this is the case. Many features

(Continued on Page 8)

## MT. FUJI by Todd Pettit

The NOAUG News



## President's Corner

*A Word from NOAUG's President, Dave Porter*

**N.O.A.U.G.** - Well, the summer is really over now and that usually means more computing time is at hand. Things never really change but we always want to think things improve. What better epitaph to describe the world of ATARI and the situation we face heading into the 1987 holiday season.

For example, all over the country the ATARI FEST computer shows are either being planned, or cancelled, or ridiculed, or praised. It is no different here in New Orleans. It seems a disproportionate amount of conversation has been devoted to aimless discussion of a regional ATARI FEST for this area. Just one hour east of here we see the very upbeat ATARI user group CAAUG (Coast Area ATARI Users Group) making the sad formal announcement that they are withdrawing their offer to host an area ATARI FEST for lack of enthusiastic support by ATARI Corp. It is also sad, I suppose, that CAAUG went to great expense trying to convince ATARI that Biloxi, Mississippi was really a good location to host such a FEST. It further still is somewhat sad that all this work by the Coast Users came after we, the New Orleans ATARI Users Group, turned down a request to host a regional fest. Why? I will tell you. (Keep in mind, however, that while I go through this we are again considering a regional FEST.)

When we were originally approached to host a FEST we were told that all of 1987 was booked (and this was only 1986). That meant we would have to commit to a 1988 date. We were going to have elections for club officers in between that would serve a full term and then another new group of officers who would come on stream to take over the a) glory, b) profit, c) headaches, and d) commitments that other people had made. It has been our experience in dealing with ATARI that no single name or contact at Atari has been around long enough to complete a project that had such a long lead time. Also, inside our club we have not been able to count on the voting membership to have jobs in New Orleans that far down the road. Now that is not to say the membership would necessarily change drastically, but that with the economic problems we all face in Louisiana it would be hard for me, if not impossible, to say for sure I could honor my own obligations that far down the road--much less those of the membership. Now, however, things may have improved, but we are faced with a whole new set of potential problems.

For one thing, we never wanted the Coast Area ATARI Users Group to cancel. In fact, we very carefully made sure we never gave any indication to anybody that we would not fully support a Mississippi FEST. On top of that, we, during the last 12 or 13 months, never re-considered our position to host a FEST for several reasons, even though we were told New Orleans was the area that ATARI CORP really wanted. We never considered for a moment that a FEST for this area would be anything less than very successful. So what if anything has changed?

Not a lot I am afraid. We are still trying to make a commitment that will be very hard to honor as the club officers currently in office have no assurance a FEST can be had during this administration's term. In addition to this, some of our members also belong to other area ATARI user groups. In fact, some of our

current officers are also officers in the other clubs, and therein causes some tough management problems when trying to accept a) the risk, b) the responsibility, and c) the sharing of any profits. I really hope to contact several of the other user groups that have faced this problem before us and see if they can offer any suggestions.

Without avoiding the issue, let's assume that a profit of, say, \$3,000.00 can be realized. Do we as NOAUG undertake this project head on expecting to derive 10% (\$300.00), 25% (\$750.00), or 50% (\$1500.00) of the total profit? That is, if we expect 50% of the total profit can we expect any real help from the five other clubs within driving distance to help for only a share of the remaining \$1,500.00? This is no small problem. I can see where the wrong decision on this subject will completely offset any good that could come out of this--and therein lies the biggest risk. ATARI supposedly protects the local club from any financial risk.

We are big enough that we could try to undertake this project on our own and therefore keep any small profit in our treasury without sharing. But then how do you address the issue that some of our members also belong to these other clubs? No way...we will HAVE to share the problems and the profits! Yet, many of the NOAUG members ask why should small clubs comprised largely of NOAUG members dilute the potential profit for NOAUG by doing for the other clubs what they would have been expected to do as NOAUG members anyway. If you see any real solution here please speak out. So far I don't.

One suggestion, by Karl Belson, is to assign particular duties to the various clubs and assign a percentage value on the duty. Regardless of which members or which clubs do the duty the percentage of profit assigned would be etched. A small deviation from this thought is to form a Master FEST committee (from all clubs involved) and let them identify the duties and then let the various clubs bid for the responsibility. This, so far, seems the likely direction we will be forced to go. Identifying the duties will be hard enough, but to fairly assign profit percentages is not just difficult, but really a no-win situation. Without writing this into a novel I need to enlist your opinions and get the feel of all parties involved. Do we stand to gain enough to offset the hurt feelings and the problems we very likely will face?



**BEFORE YOU  
GO ANY  
FURTHER...**

make up your mind  
about the issues that  
Dave has brought up.  
Talk to your officers  
and voice your  
opinion...

**COME ON, NOAUG--  
GET INVOLVED!**



## Hi Tech Expressions Hits With *AwardWare*

By Cairry B. Spiers

**N.O.R.A.U.G.** - While in a local retail store looking for a printer stand, I came across a program that stated it could print certificates on an Atari computer--and it was priced at just \$11.97. My wife is a substitute teacher and helping mom in the neighborhood school, I thought "What a good excuse to buy this program". I picked it up (along with the printer stand) and went to the house.

When I got home and opened the box I found two disks, documentation, and an order form for more products from HI TECH EXPRESSIONS. On the order form were two names I had seen before, *HeartWare* and *JingleDisk*. I have seen both of these programs in action and wasn't overly enthused with what they were. Not that they were a rip-off, I just had no use for them. I thought that maybe this was another program of no use to me. I was in for a surprise.

I, not being much for reading docs, decided to go straight to work. I placed write protect tabs on the program disk and graphics disk because they weren't protected and I didn't want to blow them away accidentally. I booted the program disk in drive 1 (w/o BASIC). I was greeted with some very nice graphics, followed by a main menu: Printer Setup, Create a QuickAward, Create Awards & more, Create an AwardDisk, and Exit. I chose "Printer Setup" and set the printer driver for a Star NX-10. Following the prompts I went back to the main menu. Next I chose "Create a QuickAward" and pressed RETURN. Again, following the prompt, I made an *AwardWare* welcoming certificate. It printed quickly and nicely. I was very pleased with the outcome. You don't need the docs to use the program but I found out later that day that they are very helpful because all of the templates (which determine the layout of the certificate) are numbered. You decide which template you want and simply press the corresponding number, fill in the blanks and print. Nothing could be easier.

About the only problem that I encountered was the write protect tabs that I had put on the disks. It seems that when you go to print the award is first saved to your program disk. This didn't make sense at first, but when I



*At left, one of AwardWare's 5 x 7 inch (shown here reduced) choices with Old English lettering and a ribbon seal. Above, from their miscellaneous group, a horizontal printout (originally 8 1/2" x 11") with graphic, and Roman and Italic fonts. Notice that, unlike Print Shop, AwardWare supports lower-case.*

finally got around to reading the docs, it did. The programmers figured that you might want to make multiple awards, changing only a line or two.

After printing you are allowed to "Edit Last Template" and change the names and print again. This is a handy feature for a teacher.

There was something in the documentation which I didn't quite understand. I hope to get clarification from Hi Tech in the future. On the credits page it states that "No part of the software program can be reproduced...". On page 21 of the same documentation it states "...Make a copy of this program and send it to a friend. Tell them to choose 'Edit Last Template' and print the award you created for them." This sounds a little contradictory! One thing the manual was clear about was Hi Tech's generous replacement policy. You can send \$5.00 for a replacement disk and manual to use as a back-up. On the other hand, the program isn't copy protected and can be backed up with DOS (as they advise you do before using it on page 2 of the manual).

With this program you can print QuickAwards (pre-defined certificates), 60 different styles of Awards/Licenses (in two different sizes), 25 Letterheads/Memos, 4 Checks/Tickets/Coupons, 4 kinds of Ribbons, and 10 miscellaneous certificates (including a key-shaped one). That is a pretty good selection of awards and certificates for \$11.97! The graphics disk contains 20 borders, 5 fonts, 20 graphics, 5 seals, and 4 signature box formats.

Also included in the box was a coupon for an additional *AwardWare* graphics disk (free, but \$2.00 for shipping and handling).

For those who are interested and can not locate this program at a local store there is a phone number and address on the order form. I am including in this review for your convenience. Phone 1-800-848-9273 or write: Hi Tech Expressions, Inc., 1700 N.W. 65 Avenue, Suite 9, Plantation, FL 33313. Hi Tech Expressions, Inc. didn't pay for this review, I just like the program that much. For anyone who has or works with little children, I strongly recommend it.

(Editor's Note: It should be pointed out that *AwardWare*'s user interface may be too complicated for young children to use w/o help.)

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## AwardWare A Technical Perspective

By Karl D. Belson

**N.O.A.H.** - This is not a product review of AwardWare; it is a technical review. A product review gives you a user's perspective. On that basis AwardWare is a real winner and a much needed addition to the dwindling 8-bit market. But how is it from a technical point of view? Let's take a closer look...

I guess a good place to begin is bootup. The program has an extremely good opening sequence--well worth the wait for the first time; and when the program actually begins there is a neat "beam in" effect of the word "AwardWare." I'd have to rate the title screen and bootup procedure as a "B" (Lucasfilm programs get A's).

Now let's look at the user interface. Here I think HI-TECH EXPRESSIONS took a cue from IBM. You can't use the program without the documentation. I have mixed emotions about this. On the one hand it is an added deterrent to pirates--a pirate rarely wants something he/she needs docs to use. This provides the purchaser with something rare in the world of Atari 8-bit software--a disk which is not copy protected. On the other hand it is nowhere near as easy to use as Print Shop which is fairly self-documenting and requires little parental supervision. On this one I split.

In other areas HI-TECH EXPRESSIONS shows a real inconsistency. When entering text for a document, the text lines will "stretch" to take into account that an "i" takes less space than a "w"--nice touch! But when selecting a template the user must use the up and down arrow keys to enter a number from 1 to 60. It takes a little while for that counter to get to 60--boo, hiss! It is also impossible to tell whether a template is laid out horizontally or vertically from the graphic displayed. All things considered--let's give it a "C" for the user interface.

Now for the really sloppy programming. The print routine is perhaps the world's worst. Instead of receiving a cute little message

letting the user know that the computer is "thinking," the user is subjected to a screen full of trash as the program uses the graphics 8 display as a work buffer for the printer. Then there is the time it takes to print. It is best described by one word--*SLOW!* The print routine is disk I/O bound and then it takes forever to format what it reads into a form the printer can use. When I first tried to print something I thought the program had gone haywire. I had all this junk on the screen and nothing was coming out on the printer. What a pathetic print routine! And I think I have a right to condemn it. This page was printed by a print routine that I helped devise, and I would bet it printed faster than even the simplest of awards in AwardWare. The print routine gets an "F".

The program, however, does have one masterfully executed feature that is a saving grace. Because AwardWare will support two disk drives, HI-TECH EXPRESSIONS has freed the user from having to swap disks when loading graphics, templates, seals, and fonts. This feature, although greatly appreciated by "swapped-out" users, is to be admired even greater from a technical stand-point. The program determines if two drives are in the system and will automatically seek the graphics disk in drive two if it is present. Not bad! I have seen other programs which "supported" two drives. There has always been a setup program to run or the program had to be told to look at drive two in some other way. This is the first program I have seen that assumes D2: when present. I applaud the effort, and hope other software developers will follow suit. This feature gets an "A".

Let's see now... "B", "C", "F", and "A"... that works up to a GPA of a 2.25 or a "C". I think that's a fairly accurate assessment of the technical side of this program. Remember though, the technical side of a program is not unlike conduct in school: it doesn't really reflect whether or not the program accomplishes it's task. It only tells you how well it behaved while doing it. AwardWare is an excellent product to own, but don't expect it to look and act like Print Shop. ■

# A Piece of the *ACTION!*

By Todd Petit

**N.O.A.U.G.** - More graphics this month--or is it text? Well, actually both. One of the first routines I worked out after purchasing my Action! cartridge was the one below. Gr8Text allows you to place text (equivalent to the text found in graphics mode 0) on a graphics mode 8 screen.

You can put this text in only 40 horizontal positions (40 columns as in graphics mode 0), but you can place it vertically beginning on any of the 192 scan lines present in a graphics mode 24 screen. (Well, almost. If the Y value given is greater than 183 part of the character will be drawn off the bottom of the screen. Be careful as GR8TEXT does not check for this!) Alternate character sets are also supported. Simply change the value of Char\_base from 57344 (the address of the ROM-based Atari character set) to the address of your new set. If you are not going to use this new character set on a graphics mode 0, 1, or 2 screen it is not necessary to place it on a page boundary.

You must pass to the routine a string, an X-value (0-39), and a Y-value (0-183). The string can be sent using either of the methods shown in the sample program below. Inverse characters are fully supported.

So, how does it work? Well, as you are probably already aware, a character's image data is saved as a series of 8 bytes. What GR8TEXT does is POKE those 8 bytes to their appropriate positions based upon the X and Y values you specify. It is as simple as that.

In fact, most of GR8TEXT is a formula for converting the ATASCII value of each character in the string to its offset position within the character set.

If you looked at last month's DOUBLEBYTE PROC you may have already guessed that it is possible to marry this routine with that one and get different sized text on your screen. Try it. It would be a great exercise in Action! programming for you. And next month Karl Belson will take over this space temporarily for an article on italicizing text. It can be joined with GR8TEXT too. With these three PROCs some impressive text and graphics displays can be generated. Keep on compiling!

# *Action!*™

```
; GR. 8 TEXT PROC By Todd Petit
; for the NOAUG News
```

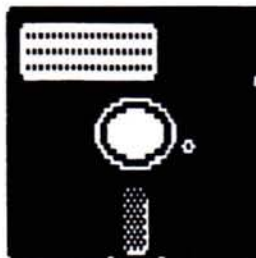
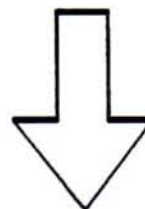
```
PROC Gr8Text(BYTE POINTER maddr BYTE x,y)
  BYTE i,char_value,inv_flag=0
  CARD j,Char_base,scrTop=88,scr_offset,offset
  Char_base=PEEK(756)*256
  scr_offset=y*40+x+scrTop
  FOR I=1 TO maddr
    DO
      char_value=maddr(i)
      IF char_value>127 THEN char_value=-128 inv_flag=1 FI
      IF char_value>31 and char_value<96 THEN offset=((char_value-32)*8)
      ELSEIF
        char_value>0 and char_value<32 THEN offset=((char_value+64)*8)
      ELSEIF
        char_value>95 and char_value<128 THEN offset=((char_value)*8)
      FI
      FOR J=scr_offset TO scr_offset+280 STEP 40
        DO
          char_value=PEEK(offset+Char_base)
          IF inv_flag=1 THEN char_value=char_value!255 FI
          POKE(J,char_value)
          offset==+1
        OD
        inv_flag=0
        scr_offset==+1
      OD
    OD
  RETURN
```

```
-----
PROC Main()
  BYTE ARRAY String='----- New Orleans, LA'
```

```
  Graphics(8)
  Gr8Text("Power Without the Price!",1,10)
  Gr8Text(String,1,55)
```

```
  Do Until Peek(53279)#7 Od
  RETURN
```

*Action!*  
programmers  
check  
this out!



Interested in some more examples of Action! programming?

Check out the The Catalog, ANTIC magazine's software offerings. They offer two disks (PD0054 & PD0055) of public domain Action! PROCs and programs (each only \$10).

# MichTron Offers Bounty

*Continued From Page 1*

read the continuing dialogue that software revenues were dropping. So Gordon Monnier, president of MichTron, decided to take matters into his own hands with the above message.

It didn't take long for the response to come....

Category 5, Topic 3  
Message 105 Tue May 26, 1987  
P.FAZIO at 19:28 EDT

Alright Gordon! Way to go!

Pirate BBSs are the bane of my existence, both as the sysop of a strictly clean BBS (Dateline BBS - Brooklyn, NY--running MichTron 2.10 of course!) and the president of an Atari user group (B.A.S.I.C. - Brooklyn Atari Society), and I am very glad to see a software publisher decide to play hardball with these parasites. I don't call pirate BBSs, so I doubt that I will be able to take advantage of your offer personally, but I will pass it on to our members and BBS users.

Pete

Category 5, Topic 3  
Message 106 Tue May 26, 1987  
R-FLASHMAN at 23:54 EDT

Gordon, you make me proud. It is about time someone took up the other side of the war. As an ex-pirate, I think that the pirates have fought too long, and that is something of the past, that is now gone.

3 for a hard disk? Mind if I post your message around?

If we stop piracy, we will get more programmers who make a decent living, and we will get MORE programs!

Rick

Category 5, Topic 3  
Message 109 Wed May 27, 1987  
JHEAUERJR [FactProg] at 01:44 EDT

Is that offer good for MichTron subcontractors, too? Give me a couple of days to find the right file, and I'll be up to here in hard drives!  
-JHJR

Category 5, Topic 3  
Message 113 Tue Jun 02, 1987  
GORDON [MichTron] at 20:53 EDT

We are going to place a temporary hold on the pirate boards due to the overwhelming response. At this point I have 29 boards to check out. That is going to keep me busy for a while. I want to thank all you honest people who support the anti pirate bbs movement.

I downloaded Goldrunner today off of a pirate board. Can anyone give me one good reason why that should be acceptable behavior. To just give this game away to anyone who calls in???

The guy who wrote Goldrunner is trying to

support a wife and a 12 year old boy on his earnings. If he doesn't make much off this program he will move on to something else! He has to make money!!! And he can't if everyone gives his hard work away....  
Oh well off the soap box....

Category 5, Topic 3  
Message 114 Wed June 03, 1987  
LFRANKLIN at 00:04 EDT

Go Get em, Gordon! Pirates need to find out that they're not the romantic heroes they think they are. As far as I'm concerned a pirate board sysop is not much different than a fence for stolen goods!  
Lance

The above interchanges led me to write an article on the subject of offering a reward for pirate BBS's. After writing it, I uploaded it to Gordon Monnier, both for comments and to find out what's next from him. His reply?

I found your article interesting. As to what are we going to do. We are turning all the information over to our lawyer and he is going to try and get a search warrant. He will go in and seize the computer, list out all the programs he has in his possession, and then sue him for copyright and trademark violations.

There's still no indication of whether Mr. Monnier, in the future, plans to reinstitute this offer, or if other software manufacturers will join him in this latest assault against pirate bulletin board systems.

As for whether this newest tactic in the war against BBS piracy will have an effect, the jury is still, as they say, out. Twenty-nine BBS numbers in a week may sound pretty impressive, but it's still a drop in the pirate BBS bucket....

## The Super Archiver

*Continued From Page 3*

of the original ARCHIVER are no longer relevant to the new Chip and software. The addendum is loaded with spelling and grammatical errors, not to mention inconsistencies. In the very beginning the docs claim that the new Chip can copy tracks containing up to 35 sectors, but later under the error message listing the user finds out the current limitation of the 810 and 1050 ARCHIVER Chip is 26 sectors/track. C.S.S. claims that the 35 sector formatting and copying can be done through software (maybe a new version of the ARCHIVER software is in the works). I found the information about the Formatter and Mapper portions of version 3.0 to be very sketchy and incomplete. I was able to start using these features after many hours of re-reading the docs and attempting to use the Formatter and Mapper. Eventhough the docs claim that the ARCHIVER can make a one-pass-copy, I have a few disks that required two passes. Version 1.0 of the ARCHIVER software allowed for one-pass copies when used with an expanded memory XL. Perhaps the extra power of version 3.0 requires more memory and will not allow for all disks to be backed-up in one pass.

Considering the apparent shortcomings with the documentation and the minor limitations of

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## Vaporware

*Continued From Page 1*

fact, have some legitimate business logic supporting it, but it is a logic that is NOT practiced by the greater part of the computer industry. If Atari wants to play with the "big boys" their actions in the market should reflect this. When IBM recently announced their Personal System 2 line of computers, they were immediately made available to dealers for sale. No year long wait here. What you see is what you get?

Atari Corp.'s inability to get new products to market is hurting the company areas other than its reputation. Sales of ST's have slacked off considerably since the announcement of the Mega ST line. This is a normal, expected reaction to such an announcement. A slowdown in sales for a month or two would not seriously hurt Atari's ST line, but without the introduction of the Mega ST's this slump has continued for a much longer time--and will not end until the Mega ST's are available. Those looking for 1200 baud are tired of waiting for Atari's new modem and are instead turning to Avatex 1200hc and others which are in the same general price range. A 1200 baud modem for around \$100 was a great deal when the SX212 was first announced a year ago. Now it is a common price. Atari has lost the advantage it had with this product and many have predicted it will not be successful as Atari's first breakthrough modem, the \$50 XM301.

The price lock that Atari held for a brief time on the low-end of the computer market is slowly being picked by scores of low cost clone machines as well as Commodore's new low-end Amiga. Without a change in policy regarding product announcements, Atari may find that no one hears what they have to say when they do bring forth some of these promised products--they'll be too busy listening to the competition. ■

## The Super Archiver

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the ARCHIVER at this time, is it worth the \$69.95 price tag? Just having the ability to backup your overly-expensive, protected software makes this tool worth its price. But wait, (kinda reminds of you of the famous \$19.95 ads on TV) couple the backup capabilities with ultra-speed I/O, true double density, a great sector editor and disassembler, a tracer program, and a custom Formatter and you have a bargain. If the documentation were cleaned up and improved upon, I would be happier. I feel that the SUPER ARCHIVER is a worthwhile addition to any serious Atari System. ■

## Word Processing Woes

*By Les Mager*

**REACH 7/87 (Reprint)** - I began Atari word processing with an 800XL, 1050 disk drive, and an AtariWriter cartridge. When DOS 2.5 came along, I converted everything into enhanced density for the increased disk space, and went merrily on with my cartridge. I have a 130XE now, but I am still using the same old cartridge. That's what this little story is about; you may love your PaperClip or your AtariWriter Plus, but they can't do what I

want to do. Only my good old AtariWriter Cartridge can.

When I started out, I was printing with an Atari 1025, which suited me well enough until I felt the need for Near Letter Quality (NLQ) performance. I finally decided to upgrade the 1025 to an Epson LX-80 - but then the troubles began to appear. First, the cartridge AtariWriter didn't have a built-in Epson printer driver or a driver-maker, so I decided to upgrade my word processor, too. I tried PaperClip and found, to my surprise, that PaperClip didn't handle enhanced density--only single or double. I would have to reconvert all my data disks to single density, and rebuild my whole filing system. I wrote Batteries Included, and they assured me that they did not have, and were not planning to make, an enhanced density version of PaperClip. So much for PaperClip.

Next I tried AtariWriter Plus. "Beautiful", I thought, when I saw that it had an Epson Driver built in. But when I loaded one of my cartridge-made files, it couldn't handle the size. It could take a file of about 90 sectors, with no room for previewing; but my cartridge-made files were 140-150 sectors long, and still gave me preview space for the 1025. To use AtariWriter Plus I would have to rewrite every sequential word processor file (about 45 of them, by that time)--a "solution" worse than PaperClip had presented me with.

Well, not the only solution, I thought; all I need to do is sell my 800XL, get a 130XE with all that extra space, and I'm home free. Off to the store I went, brought home a 130XE, and loaded up again. "Beautiful", I thought, I don't have to change a file or a disk. However...it just so happened that I had loaded up a file whose starting page number was 255. A preview printout showed me that the page which followed was not page 256 as I had instructed, but was page 1. The brains who invent word processors had done it again! Although the manual clearly stated that it would paginate to 9999, the programmers had allowed only a one-byte accumulator. It went to 255, and then started over. With that one flaw, AtariWriter Plus turned out to be useless to me. I wrote to Atari, naturally. But Atari responded to me as Atari has always responded to me; with inspirational silence! I returned the program to the store, kept the 130XE, and started looking for a printer driver I could use with my old faithful cartridge.

Fortunately, Antic has a Printer Driver Construction Set, which I immediately ordered. It turned out that I didn't need to construct anything. The FX80 driver which they include with it is exactly what my LX80 needs. Of course, I found that the driver takes up some of the space I used to have, so that a few of my former files won't load completely. No problem: I put a one-sector master file on each disk, and chained each file to it. That way, they were read from the disk without loading. Other than adding the chain command, I didn't have to rewrite a file or reorganize a disk.

My usual writing practice now, with the Epson Printer, is to install the driver with the cartridge, and write files which are typically 110-122 sectors long--that is, one single-spaced page shorter than my former file--in order to make previewing easier. The moral of the story is: don't throw away those old and easy AtariWriter cartridges. They're still able to go where others can't. ■

# NOVEMBER

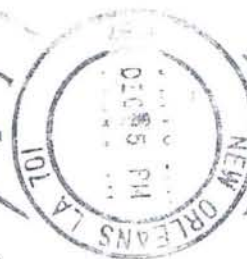
## 1987

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 NOV ELECTION DAY	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 VETERANS DAY	12	13	14
15	16	17 NOV	18	19	20	21
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